Concerned about financial stresses faced by WWII Airmen and their families, Army Air Corps Commanding General Henry "Hap" Arnold and his wife, Bee, founded the Air Force Aid Society.

The cumulative amount of total AFAS assistance given to Airmen and their families by the year 1956 had surpassed $15 million.

The first Air Force Charity Ball is held at the New York Hilton hotel, raising $90,000 for Airmen and their families.

The General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program - a cornerstone of AFAS education support initiatives - launches. Since that first year, more than $160 million in grant support has been awarded to date.

After a hiatus and championed by then Air Force Chief of Staff General John Jumper and his wife, Ellen, the Air Force Charity Ball resumes with a gala event at Joint Base Andrews in Washington, DC. The event continues annually today in the DC area.

AFAS provides nearly $15 million in direct assistance this year alone to support Airmen and their families. 20% of emergency assistance relief was in the form of outright grants.

The U.S. Air Force becomes a separate military service.

Boeing and Lockheed-Martin each make sizable donations to AFAS, creating a tradition of corporate support for America's Airmen.

By 1970, the cumulative amount of AFAS assistance given to Airmen and their families totaled more than $34 million.

AFAS introduces the first of its popular childcare focused community programs - Child Care for Volunteers, Give Parents a Break would be introduced the following year, and Child Care for PCS would follow in 1998.

AFAS launches its popular, no-interest Falcon Loan program to meet short-term financial needs of active duty Airmen.

AFAS celebrates 75 years of helping Airmen as the official charity of the U.S. Air Force.